

## Message Text

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51  
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W  
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P 251055Z OCT 73  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5602

SECRET KABUL 7555

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, AF  
SUBJECT: WAHID ABDULLAH VISIT

REF: STATE 209586

1. NAIM WAS OUT OF KABUL WHEN REFTEL RECEIVED. I SAW HIM ALONE AT FONMIN FOR LENGTHY DISCUSSION MORNING OF OCTOBER 25 IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS RETURN.

2. FOLLOWING CAREFULLY GUIDANCE IN PARA FOUR REFTEL, I EXPLAINED REASONS WHY WAHID ABDULLAH HAD NOT BEEN ABLE SEE PRESIDENT NIXON THIS WEEK, STRESSING ENORMOUS PRESSURES GENERATED BY ME CRISIS.

ALSO ADDED SOME DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT WASHINGTON POLITICAL CLIMATE GLEANED FROM VOA AND WIRELESS FILE WHICH ABVIOUSLY ADDED FURTHER TO SQUEEZE ON PRESIDENTIAL SCHEDULE. MADE EVERY EFFORT ASSURE DAOUD THROUGH NAIM THAT NO RPT NO DIPLOMATIC SLIGHT OR POLITICAL SIGNAL SHOULD BE READ FROM SEQUENCE OF EVENTS. HINTED THAT MORE WARNING OR LEAD TIME FROM GOA MIGHT HAVE HELPED, BUT THAT PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE IN PARTICULAR WEEK INVOLVED TURNED OUT TO BE INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLE. CONCLUDED THAT ABDULLAH'S VISIT PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR VERY HELPFUL TALKS IN ANY EVENT.

3. NAIM LISTENED INTENTLY AND RESPONDED POLITELY BUT COLDLY. HE WAS VISIBLY UNPERSUADED. SAID DAOUD FELT DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT TREND OF ME CRISIS, HAD IMPORTANT PERSONAL MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT

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NIXON EMBODIED IN A LETTER, AND TO GIVE IT ALL POSSIBLE EMPHASIS HAD ENTRUSTED IT TO HEAD OF HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH INSTRUCTION THAT HE DELIVER IT PERSONALLY TO PRESIDENT NIXON. PERSONAL DELIVERY WAS, NAIM SAID, ESSENTIAL SO THAT WAHID ABDULLAH COULD

ELABORATE ORALLY ON TEXT. WHILE HE UNDERSTOOD PRESSURES ON PRESIDENT'S TIME, HE COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT "A FEW MINUTES COULD NOT HAVE BEEN FOUND." HE REGRETTED DEEPLY THAT PRESIDENT DAOUD'S PERSONAL ENVOY HAD NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO DELIVER HIS MESSAGE "AS WOULD BE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE WITH OTHER NATIONS." DESPITE MY STATEMENTS, HE SAID, "THEY COULD NOT AVOID DRAWING CERTAIN CONCLUSIONS FROM THIS RESULT."

4. NAIM'S INTENSE INTEREST AND CONCERN ABOUT ME CRISIS (REPORTED SEPTEL) NOW CONVINCE ME THAT DAOUD MESSAGE WAS IN FACT A PERSONAL INITIATIVE OF NAIM'S. HIS REACTION COULD WELL PARTLY REFLECT CHAGRIN AT HAVING DAOUD SEE IT ABORTED. NONETHELESS, AFGHAN PRIDE HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN SEVERELY WOUNDED. WE MUST ASSUME THAT DAOUD WILL FIND A WAY IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO SHOW THAT EVEN REMOTE ASIAN NATIONS ARE NOT POWERLESS TO MAKE THINGS LESS COMFORTABLE FOR THE US.

LEWIS

SECRET

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 11 MAY 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973KABUL07555  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** STATE 209586  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13-Dec-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <02-Jan-2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WAHID ABDULLAH VISIT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, AF, US, XF, VOA, (NIXON, RICHARD M), (ABDULLAH, WAHID), (DAOUD), (NAIM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005